



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
20546

Reply to Attn of:

JAN 10 1992

SEP03

TO: MODIS Oceans Team Leader

FROM: Program Scientist, Ocean Biogeochemistry

SUBJECT: MODIS Oceans Team Funding

In response to your query of 9 January, 1992, Dixon Butler has authorized me to provide you with the attached draft of the EOS restructuring letter from Dr. L. Fisk as it pertains to the MODIS instruments.

MODIS-N is selected for flight, MODIS-T is deselected and will be replaced by a follow-on mission of the SeaWiFS class. Dr. Fisk's letter explicitly states: "Full support will be maintained for research tasks originally related to MODIS-T on ocean color. With this support, the MODIS Team is encouraged to utilize SeaWiFS data..."

✓ As discussed in numerous meeting with the SeaWiFS Project and the MODIS Oceans Team, NASA headquarters views continuity of funding for the MODIS Oceans team as essential for the success of SeaWiFS. We understand that the present SeaWiFS Project budget assumes anticipated funding for MODIS Oceans Team members at levels set prior to the EOS restructuring.

I hope this advanced release of this EOS restructuring letter addresses your concerns.


B. Greg Mitchell

attachments

cc: D. Butler/SED
V. Salomonson/ GSFC 900
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PRAET

Distribution:

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✓ Mitchell

TL and all TM's/MODIS

NASA has recently completed restructuring the Earth Observing System (EOS) program to fly the EOS instruments on a series of intermediate and small spacecraft. As you know, we undertook this effort in order to enhance program robustness and flexibility in responding to recent changes in the EOS funding profile. I am pleased to inform you that your Team Leader/Member investigation with the Moderate-Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MODIS) remains confirmed for the execution phase of EOS. The specific flight assignments for the nadir instruments (MODIS-N), as well as the disposition of the tilt instrument (MODIS-T), however, differ from those noted in my letter of January 18, 1991; other than these changes, all aspects of that letter remain in effect.

The MODIS-N instrument is assigned to the first flights of both the Morning (AM) and Afternoon (PM) series of spacecraft with the former currently planned in 1998 and the latter in 2000. It is also tentatively assigned to the second and third flights of both series; however, final determination of the manifesting of instruments in these subsequent flights will not be made until after instrument development is underway. This deferral in manifesting instruments on subsequent flights is intended to allow for continuing evolution in mission planning which may result from the availability of new technology, improvements in our understanding of measurement requirements, and the availability of alternative sources of data.

✓ The MODIS-T instrument has been deselected from the EOS program and will no longer be considered a candidate for flight on any EOS spacecraft. Instead, NASA plans to purchase ocean color data from the flight of a follow-on Sea-viewing Wide Field Sensor (SeaWiFS). Full support will be maintained for research tasks originally related to MODIS-T on ocean color. With this support, the MODIS Team is encouraged to utilize SeaWiFS data, as well as to work with our Japanese and European colleagues on the Global Imager (GLI) and the Medium-Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MERIS), respectively, to address research objectives originally requiring the MODIS-T measurements.

The EOS restructuring was guided by the scientific priorities outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Over the last several months, we sought the recommendations of the EOS science community, both informally through the Investigator Working Group (IWG) meeting in August 1991 (Seattle, WA), and formally through the EOS Payload Panel meeting in October 1991 (Easton, MD). Using these recommendations as a guide, NASA has designed a program that meets most of the critical program science requirements while remaining within the funding guidelines outlined by the Congress.

I appreciate your support during the restructuring process. I also appreciate your active participation in the EOS program, as well as your continuing interest in research on the Earth and NASA's Space Science and Applications Program.

Sincerely,
Fisk